

They may have been fooled when they voted for change in the 1992 election and ended up with the "let's party on" crowd's higher taxes, more Government spending, and a proposal for Government run health care.

But the 1994 election was different. And despite the naysayers who will fight our efforts every day preserving the status quo, we will succeed in cutting the waste and making Government less costly and less intrusive.

□ 1430

LET US KEEP THE FREE LUNCH PROGRAM

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday morning I went to Hawthorne School in Seattle and talked to the whole student body, 650 squirming kids, all of whom had taken a paper dinner plate and written a note to me about the school lunch program. The kids actually know what is happening. In Seattle, 47 percent of the students take part in the reduced or free lunch program. There were almost 430,000 lunches served last year.

In the next school year, with the cuts in this bill we are going to deal with over the next couple of days, Seattle will lose \$654,000. Now, that means the State legislature has got to pick up that amount. Some of my colleagues in my delegation pushed through an amendment that says it takes 60 percent to raise the taxes in the State of Washington. So how are you going to get that through?

But even more amazing, I picked up the Seattle paper, and one of my colleagues says we are going to save money by cutting regulations like that useless regulation that requires the schools to monitor the temperature of the milk. It is as though the Members on the other side never heard of the germ theory.

The reason you have cool milk being is to keep kids from getting sick.

Vote against this bill.

TITLE VII OF H.R. 4, CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

(Mr. WELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, as one of the chief sponsors of the Family Reinforcement Act, I rise in strong support of the goals of the child support enforcement provisions in the Personal Responsibility Act.—Our welfare reform initiative.

The strength of America's families is of utmost importance to the future of this country. We must act quickly and decisively to restore, encourage and protect our most fundamental unit of American society.

I am here today to voice my support for the commonsense goals of H.R. 4:

reducing welfare dependency by ensuring that parents support their children; strengthening and streamlining the State-based child support system; and giving the States the tools they need to get the job done.

Too many single-parent families have had no where else to turn but to resort to Government support programs—and too many children go to bed hungry or do without—all because their dead-beat parents outrun the current bureaucratic and time-consuming child support collection system. This has got to stop. Republicans are working to change our child support collection system.

I applaud the child support enforcement goals of H.R. 4, and support its efforts.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, one of the most disturbing problems facing our society today is domestic violence. Violence against women exists in big cities, and it also exists in small, rural communities, like those in my district in northern Michigan. For many years domestic violence was not discussed in public, because people thought it was a problem that should be dealt with from within the home.

Statistics show that crimes against women are rising at a faster rate than total crime. Even more disturbing is the fact that more than two-thirds of violent crimes against women are committed by husbands, boyfriends, or acquaintances. In fact, thirty-three percent of American women who are killed, are killed by a boy friend or husband.

Recently, we have had reason for hope, because President Clinton took on the fight against domestic violence. Because of his leadership and support, the Violence Against Women Act was passed into law.

President Clinton is the first President to attack this problem head-on. He has created a special Violence Against Women Office at the Department of Justice to spearhead the effort to fight violence against women. Today, the President announced approximately \$26 million in STOP Grants to the States to fight violence against women.

I salute President Clinton's leadership in this fight, a fight which we all must join, to stop domestic violence.

TELL IT LIKE IT IS

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I have asked groups of people back home if the news media have explained to them that the Republican School Lunch Program is increasing by over 4

percent per year for 5 years or that we are increasing funding for WIC, Women Infants, and Children's Program, by over \$1 billion over 5 years? Their answer is they have not heard.

The Democrats started the lie about the cuts and the news media have compounded that lie. We are increasing funding for school lunch programs and also for WIC. I wish the other side would tell the truth, and likewise for the news media. It seems only Rush Limbaugh is telling the truth.

WELFARE REFORM IS NEEDED

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, welfare reform is needed. Let us have a real debate on welfare reform. We can require work. Let us set time limits on assistance for the non-disabled. Let us require job training. Let us do a better job on collecting child support. I think that needs to be done.

But this bill today is more than that. This bill is about cuts in assistance to children. And whether you call it cuts or, under the newspeak, we call it limitations on increases, the American people want welfare reform, but they do not want cuts in our school lunches.

Yesterday I had lunch at the J.P. Henderson Elementary School in Houston, TX. Those children enjoyed their lunch. We had a burrito, and I will have to admit it was harder for me to eat than it was for them to eat. But their lunch is important to them, as important as their school work, their room or their teachers, because a child who is hungry cannot learn. The American people understand that, and I hope people would understand in this Congress that they need to read their lips; they want welfare reform but they do not want cuts in school lunch programs, as this bill, H.R. 1214, will do.

WESTERN COMMERCIAL SPACE CENTER LEASE SIGNING

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, last Friday the 25-year lease agreement between the Department of the Air Force and the Western Commercial Space Center was finally signed. Although the agreement had been agreed upon in principle for months, it was nearly derailed by an overzealous civilian bureaucracy. In essence, what would have taken less than 30 days in the private sector took several months because of the arcane manner in which government tends to operate.

This lease agreement paves the way for construction to begin on the first polar orbit commercial spaceport in

America. Moreover, this agreement will usher in a new era of commercial launches from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California and will be a catalyst for greater private industry investment in commercial space activity across America.

Mr. Speaker, many people deserve thanks and credit for going the extra mile to work out this lease agreement. As we have discovered once again, when the national interest is involved—in this case the U.S. commitment to commercial space—both sides of the aisle can come together to do what is best for America.

REPUBLICAN RADICAL APPROACH TO CUTTING SCHOOL LUNCHES

(Mr. VOLKMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, as I traveled around my district over the weekend, I met with school administrators who are concerned about what is going to happen to the School Lunch Program under the Republican radical approach to cutting school lunches.

One of the biggest things that became apparent to me as I traveled around and talked to people, and I asked people what they knew about the Contract With America, I found very few that ever heard of it and about two or three of all the people I talked to even knew anything about it.

It seems all these speeches that are being given here every day about this contract are not soaking in back home.

One thing they did ask me about invariably, wherever I went, what has happened to the NEWT GINGRICH investigation? What happened to the book deal? What happened to the COPAC investigation? Why is not something being done about that?

That is what I hear about all over my district. That is what the people want to know: Why is not this House investigating the Speaker's actions and what he has done on the book deal and other things?

FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT

(Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing wetlands legislation intended to replace section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. Section 404 governs wetlands regulation and has long been in need of review and reform.

The new section would classify wetlands by their function and value, and balance the farmers' and landowners' property rights with the need to protect our Nation's functionally important wetlands.

I strongly disagree with the current wetlands regulation process. The

present section 404 is a bureaucratic quagmire that fails economically, constitutionally, and environmentally: Local development is constrained to spare the destruction of marginal wetlands, private property rights are ignored as Government declares citizens' property unusable, and State programs offer little to no incentive for local land owners to preserve and enhance vital wetlands.

The new legislation surpasses the current 404 program in many ways. Most importantly, the legislation recognizes that not all wetlands are the same. Wetlands would be classified into three types with the most valuable class being more strictly regulated than under current law. The middle class would be treated similarly to current law, but benefiting from the injection of a new balancing approach to the system. The third class, which provides no wetland functions and values, would be virtually unregulated.

The legislation also makes important strides in recognizing the rights of private property owners. For farmers, prior converted cropland would not be included within the scope of the wetlands regulation. Furthermore, land owners, who have lost the right to use a portion of their land due to a Government taking, would have the option to seek compensation at fair market value and transfer that the title to the Government, or to retain the title to the property land abide by the prohibition established for type A wetlands.

In addition, the legislation also provides for the protection and growth of our Nation's most functionally important wetlands. First, States are required to develop mitigation programs to enhance wetlands growth. Second, this legislation expands the list of activity that require permits in type A wetlands.

For all of these important reasons, I am pleased to offer this bill to the House.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, as one of the authors of the Violence Against Women Act, I was proud to join President Clinton at the White House earlier today to announce the appointment of former Iowa Attorney General Bonnie Campbell to direct the Violence Against Women Office at the Department of Justice.

The Violence Against Women Act, which passed with strong bipartisan support, is the first comprehensive Federal effort to fight violence against women. Long before Nicole Simpson was a household name, violence against women was one of America's most serious crime problems and most hidden secrets. Unfortunately, our local agencies were often inadequately trained, or hindered by scarce resources, and unable to tackle the problem.

Today, we say, "no more." Funding will begin to flow to the States to bolster their law enforcement, prosecution, and victim services that address violence against women. A national family violence hotline will be established. As a result of the rape victim shield law, which prevents abusive inquiries into one's past, victims will no longer be the ones put on trial. And individuals convicted of certain Federal sex abuse laws will be ordered to pay restitution to their victims.

Crimes against women are rising much faster than total crime.

Today we say, "no more."

REPAIRING A BROKEN WELFARE SYSTEM

(Mr. RIGGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, our welfare system is broken. It encourages dependency, destroys initiative, and robs the poor of hope. As Ronald Reagan said,

You cannot create a desert, hand a person a cup of water, and call that compassion. And you cannot build up years of dependence on government and dare call that hope.

We need to break the cycle of dependency created by four decades and several trillion dollars of Federal payments. We need a welfare system that encourages personal responsibility, that requires work, and that gives States more flexibility to solve their own unique problems. This is not just a matter of fiscal responsibility, Mr. Speaker. For the sake of the people this Government has locked into a dehumanizing welfare system, we need to begin offering a hand up, not a hand-out. This is what the Republican welfare reform plan is all about—caring for the truly needy, while empowering people to help themselves. That is the American spirit, Mr. Speaker, and it is time we restore it to our welfare system.

WELFARE REFORM: REJECT THE REPUBLICAN PLAN

(Mr. WATT of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the rich are getting richer, and the poor are getting poorer. Over the last 15 years the top 5 percent, the richest people in our country, have seen their income and assets grow tremendously. The bottom 20 percent, the poorest people, have seen their incomes drop. The middle has been frozen in the same place for that entire period of time.

What does that have to do with welfare reform which we are discussing today? The Republicans' block grant approach freezes welfare at the 1994 level for the next 5 years. At the same time, they propose a \$190 billion tax